

This experiment that the Obama administration is pushing the Congress to pass would rip out that system and put in its place what I think would be an inferior system. People don't understand why we need to do it. And, in fact, we don't have to do it.

Our proposal is essentially three things that would allow us to keep this great medical system that we have, bring down the costs and make it affordable to everyone. We would allow small companies to form co-ops and bargain for their insurance coverage, much the same as the Kentucky Farm Bureau does in Kentucky even today. We would do away with junk lawsuits that drive up the cost of practice and cause doctors to perform very expensive defensive medicine.

Do not pass this bill.

SLOW DOWN ON HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HOEKSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, it's time for us to slow down.

The second day in office, the President said within 12 months Guantanamo will be closed. He's now found out that rushing and making that decision was the wrong decision and that the teams that he has in place have clearly indicated they will not be able to make that goal.

Then we rushed into a stimulus bill, \$787 billion on the backs of our kids and our grandkids. And it's not working. Rushing through this process doesn't work.

We then did an ill-advised cap-and-trade system which has further put the brakes on our economy. We rushed it through.

And now we're looking at rushing through a health care bill. People are talking about what's in the bill. No one really knows because they're still negotiating, and there are still some that say we should vote and we should vote this week, even though a bill isn't in front of us.

Let's slow down; let's do this in a professional way and make sure that we have a professional product.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

Also, I have a parliamentary inquiry. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUJÁN). The gentleman will state it.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, this chart that I have here, I have been banned, as a Member of Congress, from mailing this to my constituents or just disseminating it.

Is it within the rules of the House, an order of the House for me to be allowed to present this chart here at this time on the floor of the House of Representatives?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's chart has not drawn any objection.

Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MICA. I made that parliamentary inquiry because Members of Congress have been banned from distributing this chart which shows the Obama Democrat health care plan. Now, anytime you can get a bill from Congress and it proposes creating new agencies or activities, and in this case a health care reform, and you chart it, it tells a lot.

Once we charted this health care proposal, Members of Congress were banned from disseminating this chart. So, Mr. Speaker, this may be the only opportunity my constituents have to see this.

Last week, we asked with the stimulus package, Where are the jobs? This week we ask with the health care plan, Where are the reforms? There are over 53 new agencies, bureaucracies, and bureaucrats added in this health care so-called reform. I want health care reform. The American people want health care reform. But I don't think this is the reform that they asked for.

LET'S BE HONEST ABOUT THIS HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, some things just don't add up. We're told that the Democrats' version of health care reform will cost less in the long run. Haven't we heard this before?

When Medicare was instituted more than 30 years ago, for the first 25 years we were told that it would cost this amount. Instead, it costs nine times that much and that holds true for just about every government program that we institute.

There are multiple, multiple times that it costs more and more and more than we ever thought it would. How do you control costs when you have no money to spend, when you have to borrow money? You control costs by rationing. Markets control costs with competition, a ration by competition. But governments control costs by rationing. And so what will happen here inevitably is that the services that you are now used to receiving, the medical services will be severely circumscribed.

Let's be honest about this reform, at least, and tell people what they're going to get.

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CONGRESS SHOULD NOT APPROVE A GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the administration's plan for a government takeover of health care will raise

taxes, ration care, extend wait times, and let a government commission make decisions that should be made by families and their doctors. This scheme will increase our national deficit by hundreds of billions of dollars and will increase, not decrease, the cost of health care.

During a recent health care telephone town meeting with 1,200 of my constituents, I asked them the question if the government should determine how much health care they received. More than 9 out of 10 said "no."

President Obama is intent on making the government too big, too intrusive, and too expensive. We should listen to our constituents. Congress should not approve a government takeover of health care.

VOTE DOWN THE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

(Mr. KING of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, President Obama, in part of his campaign to be elected to office and part of his campaign after he had been inaugurated as President, said that we have an economic calamity, and we can't fix it unless we first fix health care, and that health care is broken.

Well, if you have a business that's broken, it doesn't take a \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion program to try to fix it. If the problem with health care is we're spending too much money on health care, why do we have to spend \$1 trillion or \$2 trillion more to fix it? I mean that is the number one question that doesn't seem to be answered by the administration.

And the second one, a statement that is not believable to the American people, is the idea that when the President promises if you like your health insurance program, you get to keep it. In fact, if they pass this legislation, they will take it away, and it says in section 102 of the bill that they're going to take it away. The American people are not going to be able to decide if they get to keep their health insurance program because the government will write new rules for every health insurance program, and the employers will decide whether the insurance is cheaper under the public plan, the government-run plan, or the private.

Vote this down.

IT'S THE ECONOMY THAT'S BROKEN

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am very reluctant to criticize the President of the United States. He has the most difficult job, as do we, and we must work together. But I'm really confused because he keeps referring to our health system as broken. I don't know what